

Coaching Manual



Fall 2024/Spring 2025

Board of Directors.....	3
Calendar.....	4
Coaching Checklist.....	5
Coaching Development Program.....	7
US Soccer Coaching Clinics.....	8
Team/Field Information by Age Group.....	10
Team Representative Responsibilities.....	11
Team Sponsorships.....	12
Season Organization.....	14
Field Map/Weather Policy/Practice Guidelines.....	16
Game Scheduling.....	20
Game Day Responsibilities.....	22
Game Card Procedures/Responsibilities.....	23
Season Standings & Tie-breakers (9U & above).....	25
Invitational Tournament Play.....	26
Discipline, Protest, Grievance.....	28
STYSA Codes of Ethics.....	29
Zero Tolerance Policy.....	33
What’s all that noise from the sideline?.....	38
Appendix.....	41
Parent Meeting Sample Outline.....	41
Team Sponsor Form Tax ID# 20-3263502.....	44
6U Supplement.....	46
7U/8U Supplement.....	50
Glossary.....	55
Coaching Requirements.....	58

Board of Directors

Executive Board

President	Rhaylyn Fisher-Hill	president@katyyouthsoccer.com
VP Coaches	Marty Love	Vp-kysc-coaches@katyyouthsoccer.com
VP Girls Division	Kathleen Groover	Vp-girls@katyyouthsoccer.com
VP Boys Division	Doug Graves	Vp-boys@katyyouthsoccer.com
VP Fields	Mike Pham	fields@katyyouthsoccer.com
VP Referees	Brad Balla	referees@katyyouthsoccer.com
Secretary	Dana Ecklund	secretary@katyyouthsoccer.com
Treasurer	Larry Wright	treasurer@katyyouthsoccer.com

Complete list of KYSC board members:

<https://www.katyyouthsoccer.com/board-members>

OR



Calendar

Please refer to our website for the most the current news and updates

<https://www.katyyouthsoccer.com/calendar>

Important dates to remember:

August 22	Coaches Meeting @ 6pm	Cinco Ranch Golf Club
August 29	Uniform Pick-up @ 6-7:30pm	Dick's Sporting Goods
September 7	Opening Day	KYSC Fields
September 21	Picture Day	KYSC Fields (near pavilion)
October 12	Picture Pick-up Day	KYSC Fields (near pavilion)
October 19	Make Up Picture Day	KYSC Fields (near pavilion)
November 9	Last Weekend of Games	KYSC Fields
November 16	Rain-out Make-up Day	KYSC Fields



Coaching Checklist

- **MANDATORY (ALL COACHES ON THE TEAM):**
 - Register with KYSC (www.katyyoutsoccer.com/coaches)
 - Register in GotSport (www.katyyouthsoccer.com/coaches)
 - Complete STYSA KidSafe Adult Registration for background check (www.katyyouthsoccer.com/coaches)
 - Complete the CDC *Head's Up* concussion training (your GotSport account)
 - Complete the *SafeSport Certification* training (your GotSport account)
- **Optional:** Attend age appropriate coaches courses as offered
 - (see www.katyyouthsoccer.com/coaches for most up-to-date details)
- Determine time and place for your team meeting and/or first team practice: do this as soon as possible following the pre-season coaches meeting.
- Contact all players on your team roster by the designated deadline (see **CALENDAR** on KYSC website). Begin recruiting an Assistant Coach and Team Representative.
- Meet with or talk to Assistant Coach and Team Representative to coordinate plans for team meeting. ***Assistant Coaches MUST register in GotSoccer as a Coach!***
- Conduct your team meeting (see *Parent Meeting Sample Outline*):
 - ✓ Hand out copy of team roster; direct parents to website for game schedules.
 - ✓ Agree on time and location for regular season practices
 - ✓ Secure a volunteer for Team Representative.
 - ✓ Obtain volunteers to secure a Team Sponsor.
 - ✓ Immediately identify any game day conflicts that affect your ability to field a team.
 - ✓ Hand out uniforms when available (pickup date and location announced on Club website).
 - ✓ Insist that everyone signs up for www.Rainedout.com notifications.
- Submit Team Sponsorship form and check to Brammer's by the designated deadline (see Calendar).

- Familiarize yourself with the procedures included in this manual.
- Follow game day procedures including handling of game card procedure.
 - **YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANT COACH MUST DISPLAY YOUR KID SAFE PASS AT EVERY GAME.** Violations will be reported to the VP-Coaches. A second violation may result in the suspension of duties.

STYSA requires a Safe Sport be completed for every seasonal year (Aug.1 - July 31).

SafeSport course completed after June 1 for each seasonal year. If a coach logs into their account and it shows expired, they click on “start course” and if it says completed, they will need to contact Safe Sport to get their Safe Sport account reset.

- For any technical issues with online training access, please contact the SafeSport Help Desk directly at [Learning Service & Support](#). If you still have a question after you have reviewed the FAQs, please contact the SafeSport Help Desk directly at Learning Service & Support or [\(303\) 800-4LMS \(4567\)](tel:3038004LMS4567)
- The Help Desk hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. EST, and Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST. We will do our best to get your questions answered as soon as possible.

Coaching Development Program

As KYSC registration continues to grow, there is an increasing need for more volunteer coaches. The Club recognizes that volunteer coaches come with varying levels of coaching experience and knowledge of the game of soccer. Consequently, KYSC offers programs to assist new coaches in preparing practice plans and learning how to work with young players in various stages of development. In addition, these programs are intended to provide all coaches with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the game of soccer.

The Coaching Development Program offered by KYSC includes the following:

- US Soccer Coaching Courses (4v4, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 Grassroots modules)
 - Age-appropriate coaching philosophy geared toward the player-centered Play-Practice-Play model
 - Team organization
 - Sample practice plans
 - Sample activities using age-appropriate players
- Coaches' Manual; a comprehensive KYSC procedures guide (this book!)
- Online drills and skills for use in practice sessions

STYSA, KYSA and KYSC By-Laws require that all coaches complete an 'age appropriate' US Soccer coaching certificate within one year of coaching (i.e., before beginning the 3rd season of coaching).



US Soccer Coaching Clinics

Before the beginning of each season, KYSC offers US Soccer Federation (USSF) coaching clinics in conjunction with STYSA. These are licensing clinics and are referred to as “Grassroots Licensing Courses”.

- US Soccer coaching clinics are provided free of charge to KYSC coaches.
- A Grassroots course is required within one year of coaching start date

These courses are focused on empowering coaches through experiential learning and uses a player-centered approach. The four course options of a 5v5, 7v7, 9v9, and 11v11 format relate directly to the small-sided games.

- Each course is 4 hours in length and designed specifically for the coach working in that format. All courses are 2 hours in the classroom and 2 hours on the field working with players.
- Registration for the clinic is coordinated through STYSA and can only be accessed online in the Digital Coaching Center (DCC). A fee is required to register; however, KYSC will reimburse the total cost of the clinic upon completion of the course.
- All courses are taught by U.S. Soccer certified instructors with an A or B License.

The clinics are especially helpful for coaches who want to become more familiar with the game of soccer and/or are seeking assistance in preparing practice plans. **Coaches and assistant coaches new to KYSC and/or the game of soccer are strongly encouraged to attend.**

Coaches who are experienced players themselves will find the clinics very educational in learning how to make the transition from “playing” the game of soccer to “teaching” the game of soccer.

The Grassroots Licensing Courses will consist of four (4) in-person experiences and four (4) online experiences. Prospective coaches will have the option to engage in any of these new courses - in any sequence after completing a free introductory module provided by U.S. Soccer. Topics covered in the clinics include:

- Methods of teaching
- Coaching Training Sessions
- Coaching age appropriate training exercises
- Managing Game Day
- Parent Engagement
- Teaching through games
- Risk management and safety precautions

Note: Dates for the Coaching Clinics are on the KYSC Calendar & Website.

KYSC believes that the coaching clinics are vital to the total soccer experience including improving the quality of play and controlling sideline conduct.

Successful completion of the course requires that both the classroom instruction and the field session are completed.

Team/Field Information by Age Group

Age Group	Division	Max # of Coaches* Allowed on Sideline	Players On Field	Goalies	Max. Roster Size	Game Length (min)	Ball Size
16U – 19U	III	3	11 v11	Yes	18	2 x 45 mins	5
14U - 15U	III	3	11 v 11	Yes	18	2 x 40 mins	5
13U	III	3	11 v 11	Yes	18	2 x 35 mins	5
12U	III	2	9 v 9	Yes	15	2 x 30 mins	4
11U	III	2	9 v 9	Yes	15	2 x 30 mins	4
10U	IV	2	7 v 7	Yes	12	2 x 25 mins	4
9U	IV	2	7 v 7	Yes	12	2 x 25 mins	4
8U	IV	2	5 v 5	No	10	4 x 10 mins	3
7U	IV	2	5 v 5	No	10	4 x 10 mins	3
6U	IV	2	3 v 3 (dual field)	No	12	4 x 08 mins	3

See U5, U6, U7, U8, U9 Age Group Supplements in Appendix for details

**Maximum number of coaches allowed on sideline includes KidSafe registered Managers, Coaches and Asst. Coaches.*

ALL KYSC PLAYERS IN ALL AGE GROUPS MUST PLAY A MINIMUM OF 50% OF EVERY GAME.



Team Representative Responsibilities

Over the course of a season, a team will likely have group activities that require some preparation and coordination among team parents, as well as, with the Club. Coaches are encouraged to recruit a volunteer parent for the role of Team Representative to assist with such activities.

What is a Team Representative?

No team or League is complete without Team Representatives. This is a parent who volunteers to lend a helping hand to the Coach. By doing so, the Coach is allowed to focus on the players.

What does a Team Representative Do?

Duties of the Team Representative will vary from team to team, but may include uniform pickup & distribution, Picture Day logistics, team refreshment schedule, trophies pickup and a team party at the end of the season.

The Coach may also utilize the Team Representative from time to time to assist in calling the parents of the players in case of rainouts, rescheduled games, etc.

The Team Representative may also be called upon by the League to assist in game day activities. **We are asking Team Reps to recover balls that leave the field of play, especially balls that go into the parking lot or roadway.** The league may also request assistance in manning the Board tent, observing matches, etc. depending on need.

Is being a Team Representative time consuming?

No. On average, a Team Representative spends only about 4 to 5 hours over the entire season.



Team Sponsorships

Team Sponsorship Program

KYSC offers small businesses, community entities, and parents the opportunity to participate in our soccer programs as a team sponsor. **Participation is voluntary.**

In exchange for the team sponsorship fee, the sponsor will receive the following:

- Sponsors name on back of team jersey
- Team sponsorship plaque at end of season

Team Sponsorship Procedure

- The sponsor fee is \$200 per team.
- KYSC is currently using BRAMMER'S ATHLETIC WEARHOUSE, 5017 E 5th St, Katy, TX 77493 for screening sponsor names on the back of jerseys. This is a local business and supports many youth organizations in the area.
- Steps to secure sponsor recognition on your team jerseys:
 - 1) Fill out Team Sponsor Form **completely!** (form is on website, SCHEDULES tab)
 - 2) Attach sponsor check in the amount of \$200 made payable to KYSC to the form.
 - 3) Gather all jerseys and place in bag (Please wash them first!)
 - 4) Attach form and check to bag
 - 5) Deliver to Brammer's for screening. Call first (281-391-1441) and make sure they have ample time to screen your jerseys.
- Only the sponsor's name or team name is allowed to be printed on the **back of each jersey**. *No sponsor names or team names are to be screened on the front of the jerseys.*

Printing of any child's name (first, last, nickname) is strictly prohibited and is a violation of KidSafe rules and regulations.

- If your team sponsor provides an amount that is greater than \$200, the excess amount will be applied to the KYSC operating budget; it can NOT be refunded to the team.



- A sponsorship form is also located in the Appendix of this manual

OR:

- www.katyyouthsoccer.com/fall-season (scroll to the bottom of the page)



Season Organization

On game day, the teams (7U and older) will occupy one side of the field and spectators will occupy the opposite side. Spectators of the team must remain on the same end of the field as their team, but on the opposite side. Coaches will remain on their half of the field from the center line to the top of the penalty box.

Coaches must wear/display a current season KidSafe Pass during the game. Referees are required to note a coach or assistant coach on the team sideline is without a current season KidSafe Pass. A *Notice of Violation* will be issued to the coach. Subsequent violations may result in the suspension of coaching duties until corrected.

Uniforms

When handing out the uniforms to your players, it is important to ensure each player receives the size that best fits them. We do not do sizes at registration – we work with our vendor to get age appropriate sizes for each age group.

In the event a uniform-related problem arises (missing, sizing issues, etc.) immediately notify your age commissioner via email. Ideally, all uniform issues will be settled before the first game of the season. Due to lead times in ordering replacement uniforms, your immediate notification is critical.

If a player is dissatisfied with the uniform size they requested, the Club Administrator will determine whether there are any extra uniforms available in the desired size and color. **KYSC will do our best during the first weekend(s) of games to fix all size, color, or extra need issues at our board tent.**

Casts and Braces

No player will be allowed to play or practice with a hard cast (padded or otherwise); nor will any player be allowed to play with any brace or support (knee or otherwise) that contains exposed metal or hard plastics (padded, wrapped or otherwise). This ruling is slightly different than the STYSA policy. *Soft casts are permitted for play and practice.*



Trophies

All trophies or medals provided by the Club will be distributed to the Coaches or their representative at the end of the season (6U-8U on second to last weekend; 9Us and older on the final weekend)

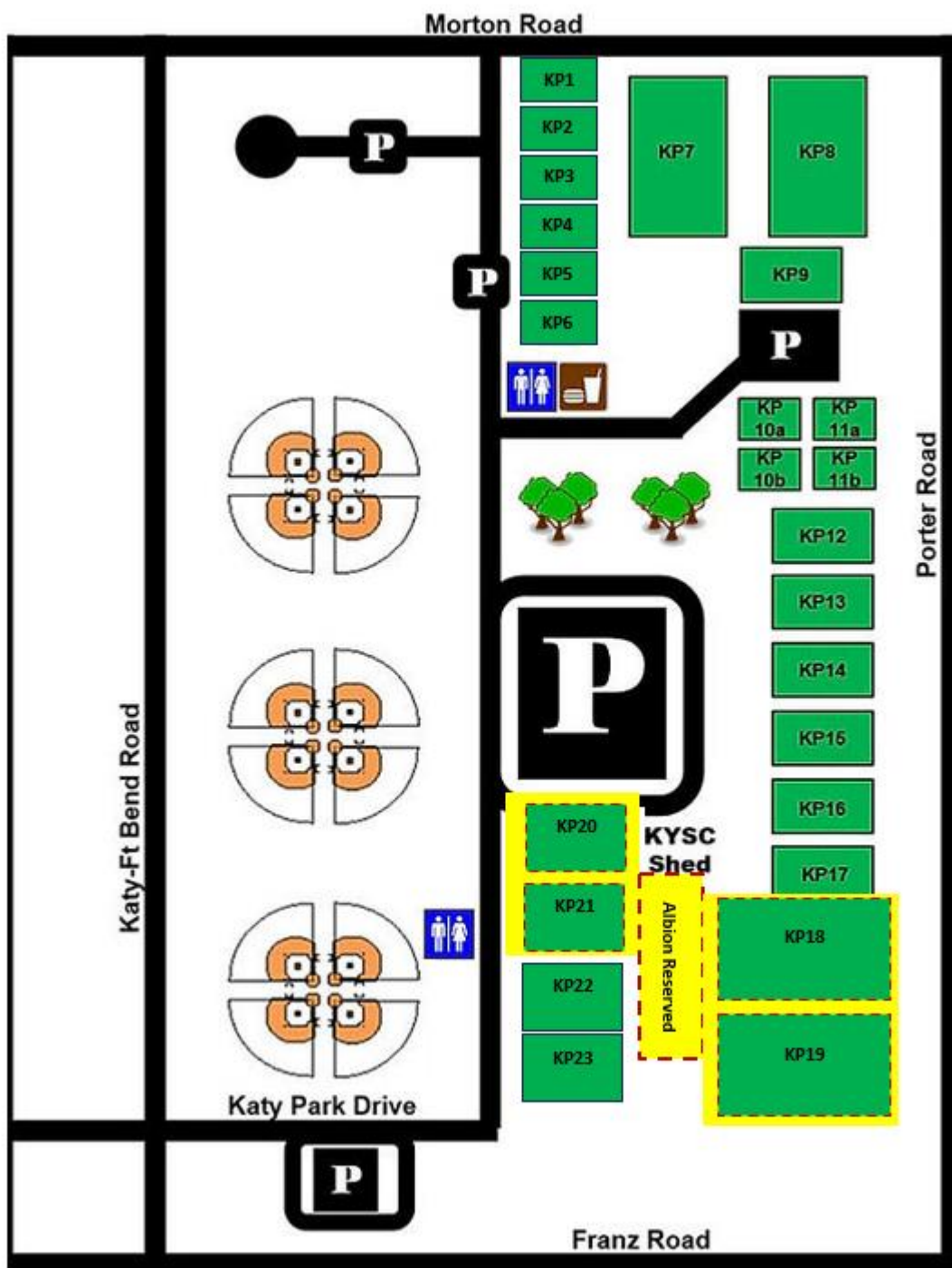
- Participation trophies are provided for all players in the 6U, 7U and 8U age groups.
- Regular season – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals for players in the 9U, 10U, 11U and Div. III (12U and older) age groups. Participation medals are provided for everyone else.



Field Map/Weather Policy/Practice Guidelines

There are entrances to Katy Park from Morton Ranch Rd. and Katy Ft. Bend Rd. The large parking lot in the middle of Katy Park is centrally located and provides the safest access to all fields.

PLEASE BE CONCIIOUS ON GAME DAYS THAT TRAFFIC DOES GET BACKED UP! PLEASE KEEP TRAFFIC FLOWING. IF THE SPOT WANTED IS NOT OPEN WITHIN A FEW SECONDS PLEASE KEEP MOVING. WE DO NOT NEED TRAFFIC BACKED UP ON MORTON RD OR KATY-FT BEND RD.



Weather Policy

Soccer is an outdoor sport; therefore, it is inevitable that weather conditions will impact decisions on the availability of fields for training and matches. Generally, a small amount of rain will not be the reason for field closures and cancellations.

The overall responsibility for the safety of players resides with the parents and coaches of the team. Decisions on whether your team will train when it rains or when it is hot is made by the coach. Ultimately, it is the parent's responsibility to take the necessary precautions and make the final decision to protect your child under the different weather conditions you are likely to face throughout the season.

You should always apply common sense to any weather situation!

KYSC, specifically the VP Fields, will have jurisdiction over the use and availability of Katy Park fields. He/she will determine the practicality of rescheduling matches against the long-term impact to the fields. Again, a small amount of rain is not a problem, but heavy rains, or consecutive days of rain may force the closure of some or all of the fields. You will be able to see field status updates on our website. On game days, the KYSC staff will inspect the fields in the morning and post the field status to the website. All KYSC families are strongly encouraged to sign up for and use the free weather notification <https://www.rainedout.com>.

On game day, KYSC personnel will immediately cease activity at the FIRST sound of thunder and/or first sign of lightning. **Everyone MUST stop your match or training exercise, leave the field of play, and return to the parking lot!** Play or training CANNOT be resumed until 30 minutes after the last occurrence of thunder and/or lightning. No exceptions!



Practice Guidelines

Location

Since most teams are comprised of players from the same neighborhood, coaches are encouraged to find a nearby practice location. Keep in mind that the more convenient you make your practices, the higher your attendance is likely to be!

Most elementary and junior high schools have open areas that can be used for practices; and many neighborhoods have parks or common areas that can be used as well. **KISD does not allow outside groups to use the football field, fenced-in areas at Jr. High Schools or the High School practice fields. Please do not attempt to use these areas for practice.**

Teams may also practice at designated portions of Katy Park on a **first come, first serve basis**. Albion Hurricanes F.C. leases fields 18-21 from the Club and always has priority on these fields (South End of Katy Park).

Albion's Friday Night Academy on Friday evenings. Recreational teams have priority on all other fields (north end of Katy Park).

Katy Park field shift change occurs EVERY weeknight at 7:00pm. You MUST vacate your practice area at 7:00pm and surrender it to another team. It is highly recommended that practice sessions should be scheduled for 5:30-7:00pm and 7:00-8:30pm to gain maximum use of the facilities.

The KYSC VP-Fields may elect to close Katy Park to practices if field conditions and/or weather conditions dictate. Every effort is made to post notice of field closure by 4:00 PM. If the fields are closed, a notice will be posted on the KYSC website and the texting service will be updated. To sign up for text notification, go to: <https://www.rainedout.com> and enter **katy youth soccer** in the search box. There is no charge for signing up for text notification; however, please check your phone provider's policy for charges.

Time / Day(s) of Week

Coaches are encouraged to discuss practice times with the parents and remain as flexible as possible. At your parent meeting, offer a couple of different weekdays and times to see what seems to be most convenient for everyone. Invariably, there will be some scheduling



conflicts. The choice is up to the Head Coach of each team. **If using Katy Park, practices must adhere to the shift change policy at 7 pm EVERY weeknight.**

Number / Duration of Practices

It is suggested that 6U & 7U teams hold one practice session per week. The session should not exceed one hour in length.

As a guideline, 8U & above teams should conduct no more than two practice sessions per week. Practices should generally be about an hour in length. If you choose to use Katy Park, suggested practice times might be from either 5:30-7:00 pm or 7:00-8:30 pm.

Field Use/Reservations in Rec Sections of Katy Park

There are NO RESERVATIONS for the recreational section of Katy Park for soccer practice! You may occupy one-half of a field for practice for 1-½ hours MAXIMUM. You must release the field to the next team after the 1-½ hour time limit or 7:00pm whichever is earlier.



Game Scheduling

Game schedules, when finalized, will be posted under the SCHEDULES tab on the KYSC website at www.katyouthsoccer.com. The schedule may be updated several times throughout the season and in the event of rain-outs; therefore, PLEASE check the website frequently.

Rainouts:

In the event of inclement weather, the KYSC VP-Fields will monitor playing conditions at Katy Park. If conditions are deemed to become unplayable and it becomes necessary to postpone games, a notice will be posted immediately on the KYSC website and the text notification system.

To sign up for text notification, go to <https://www.rainedout.net> and enter **katy youth soccer** in the search box. There is no charge for signing up for text notification, although your individual phone provider's charges for texting may apply.

If it becomes necessary to postpone games due to weather or field conditions, KYSC retains sole discretion to either RESCHEDULE OR CANCEL all affected games. Make-up schedules will be posted to the KYSC website as soon as possible. Your age commissioner is your best means for ensuring reliable communication and answering your questions.

Rescheduling Games:

With approximately 125 matches scheduled each week, game rescheduling for reasons other than weather is generally impractical. Exceptions require KYSC Board approval, and will typically be granted only if it involves multiple players from at least one of the teams being unavailable due to a shared school related conflict.

Head Coaches are STRONGLY encouraged to get an assistant coach at the beginning of the season to handle last minute conflicts that arise and may impact your attendance.

Reschedule "Approval" will be at the sole discretion of KYSC.

Rescheduling 9U to 19U Boys and Girls teams:



Coaches are encouraged to speak with their parents at the first team meeting about potential *multi-player conflicts*; and the rescheduling request must conform to the following procedure:

1. Reschedules are not permitted for the first weekend of game play.
2. A request must be submitted *no less than 14 days* before the scheduled match. Only one reschedule request is permitted per team for each KYSC season.
3. The request must be submitted to the appropriate Vice President.
4. **It should not be assumed that a reschedule will be honored.** KYSC will determine if a reschedule is possible on a case-by-case basis.
5. Fields will be reserved and referees provided to accommodate the new date.
6. Where possible, rescheduled games will be held on a weekend to avoid weekday field availability issues.



Game Day Responsibilities

Home & Visitor Teams are responsible for the following:

1. Provide the Referee with a copy of the official team roster issued to you at the coaches pre-season meeting, and present the KidSafe passes for the Coach, the Assistant Coach, or anyone on the player's side of the field.
2. Sign the Game Card upon completion of the game. (Both teams must sign the card)
3. Upon completion of the game, the WINNING coach must place the signed, completed game card in the Game Card box at the Katy Park concession stand. In case of a tie, the home team (home team is listed first on the schedule) is responsible for turning in the signed, completed game card.
4. Cards will be collected by end-of-play on Sunday and entered into the standings.
5. **There will be a 7-day grace period for submitting a game card.**
6. If a game card is NOT received by the end of the grace period, the game may be considered a forfeit with no points being awarded to the responsible team.

Referee Responsibilities:

1. Make sure the game card is completely filled out and **LEGIBLE**.
2. Verify all persons on the team sideline are wearing/displaying their valid KidSafe pass.
3. Establish whether water breaks will be enforced due to extreme heat.
4. Note all Scores on the game card by individual player, by half.
5. Total the scoring by half and record the final scores.
6. Print his/her name and the name of linesman.
7. Note the field conditions.
8. Note any Caution(s) or Ejection(s).
9. Note any injury(s) and the seriousness of the injury(s).
10. Note the conduct of the players and fans.
11. Sign the game card and return it to the winning coach (or home team coach if a tie) immediately after the game.

If you have any questions or issues regarding your referee, please contact the VP-Referees.



Game Card Procedures/Responsibilities

Game cards provide the Club with records of games played. They are mandatory for all 9U and older matches. They are instrumental in the following areas:

- Providing an official record of each game played including:
 - Game result (kept for all levels even though standings are not kept for 9U age group and below)
 - Goals scored (by team and by player)
 - Any cautions and/or ejections (yellow / red cards)
 - Any injuries which occurred during the game
 - Field conditions
- Providing the information necessary to pay the referees

Excessive Scoring:

- **Excessive scoring is defined as any score differential exceeding 6 or more goals** (i.e., 7-0, 1-8, or greater).
- For 9U and above, a final score with a goal differential less than or equal to 6, the winning team will receive **one bonus sportsmanship point** in the standings (you will receive 3 points for your win instead of 2 points).
- For all small-sided games, the **Players Add rule** will be in effect (see **Age Group Formats For Games** under the COACHES tab on the KYSC website).
- As the coach, you should recognize you are dominating the opposing team well before you reach a 6 goal differential. If you find yourself in this situation, take the opportunity to work on skills other than scoring. Some suggestions: require 4 passes before you're allowed to shoot on goal; ask the kids to complete different foot skills, or "tricks" before advancing the ball; switch your defense and offense players on the field.

Water Breaks:

Water breaks will be granted at the 9U level and above to aid in proper player hydration* and safety. **The game clock will continue to run during the water break.**

The break will be given at a normal stoppage of play as close to the midpoint of each half and will be mandatory based on the following conditions:



- The heat index is above 85° at game time as determined by a league official onsite at the fields.
- If requested by either coach prior to the match during the pre-match conference with the referee.
- The referee at any time may declare a break for the safety and welfare of the players without agreement of the coaches.

*Hydration: water breaks alone will NOT keep an athlete properly hydrated. Drinking plenty of water at least 30 min before a game or practice and replacing both water and electrolytes after a game or practice are critical components of staying hydrated.

Download the USYS Guidelines for Heat and Hydration

https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/news/us_soccer_federation_issues_new_hydration_guidelines_to_prevent_dangerous_heat_illness_in_young_players/



Season Standings & Tie-breakers (9U & above)

Per STYSA regulations, game results and season standings are only maintained for the 9U age groups and above. No official game results or season standings are maintained for the 8U age groups and below.

Game results and season standings are updated on a weekly basis on the KYSC website. Game cards are used as the basis for maintaining standings. Two points will be awarded for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for loss or forfeit. A change of +1 will be applied to a sportsmanship win (goal differential ≤ 6) resulting in 3 points for the win instead of 2. Any game for which a completed game card is not received will be scored as a forfeit for the responsible team. The website is typically updated with game results by Wednesday of each week.

For the 9U and above age groups - if, at the end of the regular season, teams are tied for 1st and/or 2nd and/or 3rd place the following criteria will be used (in the order presented) to determine final rankings:

- Head-to-head play during the season with the winning team being awarded the higher ranking;
- Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed)
- Fewest goals allowed during the regular season with the team allowing the fewer goals awarded the higher ranking;
- If teams are still tied, additional criteria will be applied at the discretion of the Board of Directors. This may include duplicate awards to both teams, the use of penalty shots, or other criteria consistent with the STYSA Administrative Handbook.
- In the event that multiple teams are tied at the end of the regular season, once a team is eliminated using the tie breaking criteria, that team is awarded the lowest ranking and will no longer be considered in breaking the tie between the remaining teams. The still tied teams would then cycle again through the criteria to determine the next ranking.



- If teams are tied for 3rd place, the same criteria listed above (in the order listed) would be used to determine which team is to be awarded 3rd place.
- **NOTE: a forfeit is registered as a 3-0 score resulting in a 3 goal differential that will be used in the tie break calculation.**

Invitational Tournament Play

Many soccer associations in the south Texas region sponsor invitational tournaments throughout the year for recreational and competitive teams registered with USYSA. A schedule of tournaments is maintained on the STYSA website (<http://www.stxsoccer.org>). Tournaments provide young players with an opportunity to compete against teams outside their local club, and typically provide an enjoyable experience for players and parents.

Note that tournaments will use the 2016 USSF mandated guidelines and team/play formats which may be different than the team/ play formats used by KYSC.

KYSC teams are encouraged to participate in invitational tournaments. However, you should understand that the level of play is typically very competitive. Most tournaments are played over one weekend and each team typically plays two or three qualifying games on Saturday with the top teams in each age bracket advancing to semi-final and final games on Sunday. Tournaments typically charge an entry fee, and each team is responsible for paying their own entries fees for the tournaments.

KYSC teams are responsible for honoring their regular season matches within KYSC before committing to an invitational tournament. It is not fair to your fellow KYSC teams to miss their regular season games because another team has decided to participate in an invitational tournament.

Should your team decide to register for a tournament, you will need to review the tournament's guidelines and requirements for registering your team. This may require you to obtain additional documents not normally required for league play. Please allow yourself enough time to secure these documents from the league. They may include:

- Official team roster signed by the Association Registrar/Administrator.
- Official STYSA player cards with photo for each player (available from the KYSC/KYSA administrator); may need to be laminated per tournament guidelines.
- Current season player disciplinary report (red/yellow cards)



- KidSafe passes for all team coaches and managers with photos and laminated
- Medical release forms for each player (some tournaments even require notarized medical release forms)

STYSA Post-Season Play

STYSA organizes a post season tournament after the Fall season for qualifying Div. III and IV teams. KYSC teams that finish league play in 1st place of their respective groups may be eligible (depending on the number of invitations extended to KYSC). The entry fees historically have been paid by KYSC. Additional information on these tournaments is available on STYSA's website, through the KYSC Administrator, or through Vice President-Coaches.



Discipline, Protest, Grievance

The purpose of the KYSA Discipline and Protest (D&P) program is to promote and ensure uniformity and consistency in the application of the rules and procedures of KYSC, KYSA, STYSA and USYSA. In addition, the D&P program is intended to regulate and control unacceptable, unsportsmanlike and unfair behavior on the part of players, coaches, and parents in order to promote a healthy environment for youth soccer.

Typical matters brought before the D&P committee include:

- referee abuse or assault
- issuance of yellow and/or red cards to players and coaches for game-related behavior
- unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of coaches, players, or parents and complaints regarding unfair application of Club rules and procedures

The KYSA D&P program follows the guidelines set out in the STYSA Administrative Handbook. The D&P committee consists of various Board members as set out in the KYSA bylaws and is presided over by the VP-Coaches.

The D&P Committee may call disciplinary hearings to investigate allegations of misconduct. The D&P committee, following completion of a proper hearing, may render disciplinary action which may include, but are not limited to, probation, censure, suspension or other sanctions deemed appropriate based on the circumstances.

KYSA and KYSC strongly desire to offer a healthy and positive soccer experience to youth participating in the program. D&P matters will be taken very seriously to preserve the desired environment. KYSA will aggressively pursue matters involving referee abuse or assault.

It is the hope of the KYSA and KYSC Boards that an incident will never escalate to a level where a D&P committee is required. The coaches play a pivotal role in setting an example for players and parents. **We ask and expect all coaches to lead by example and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, and to address any undesirable behavior on the part of your parents and/or players before they escalate to a matter that must go before the Board of Directors or a D&P Committee.**

All grievances and disciplinary matters should be brought to the attention of the KYSC VP-Coaches. As head of the D&P Committee, the KYSC VP-Coaches will determine whether a formal hearing should be convened to investigate a matter further.



Further information on the Discipline, Protest and Grievance procedures can be obtained from the KYSC VP-Coaches.

STYSA Codes of Ethics

KYSC is a Member Club of Katy Youth Soccer Association (KYSA), which is directly affiliated with the South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA), and is fully supportive of the STYSA Codes of Ethics. These standards of attitude and behavior govern KYSC's expectations of the coaches, parents and players who participate in the Club.

Parent's Code of Ethics

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your child achieve their goals and overcome their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes, but if your child does make one, remember it's all part of learning. Encourage your child's efforts positively by pointing out the good things your child has accomplished.

- Preamble
 - As a parent, I play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of children.
 - Through my encouragement and good example, I can assure that all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. In soccer, young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat – all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.
- Support Your Child
 - Support your child by giving encouragement and by showing that interest in their team is very important. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory – that way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game!
- Always Be Positive
 - Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.



- Remember That Your Child Wants to Have Fun
 - Remember that your child is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let children establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your standards and goals on them. Children play for the fun of playing.
- Don't Be a Sideline Coach or Referee
 - Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your child's soccer experience a positive one. They need your support, too. That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there is almost always an opportunity for you to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!



Player's Code of Ethics

- I will play soccer for the enjoyment of the game.
- I will show respect to all involved in the game:
 - Referees
 - Coaches
 - Parents
 - Spectators
 - And most of all to the players, both on my team and the opposing team, for without the other players, the game would not be played.
- I will conduct myself with dignity and obey the laws of the game.

Coach's Code of Ethics

I coach because I want to help young people mature into well adjusted, productive adults with strong character. I want to foster a love for the fun, exciting game of soccer.

- **My actions and personal manner will be a good example for young people to follow.**
 - I will treat all players, coaches, administrators, parents and referees with the respect and courtesy I desire for myself.
 - Any dissatisfaction I want to express will be stated in a private forum and in a restrained and civil manner.
 - I will respect and honor the beliefs and sensitivities of all players, coaches, parents, administrators, and referees.
- **No matter how teams are formed, I recognize that all players on my team have value, both as players and as people.**
 - If I select players for a competitive or select team, I will do so recognizing that players are on the team to play, not to watch.
 - If I am assigned players for a recreational team, I recognize that all have signed up to play and have fun and, except for health or disciplinary reasons, I am committed to playing each player at least fifty percent of the game and in a manner that seems fair to all players and parents.
 - As a coach it is not appropriate for me to teach the players "life is not fair"; they will learn enough of that on their own. My job is to make the soccer part of their life as fair as possible, no matter what the level of competition.
- **I will be prepared for each game and practice.**
 - For practices I will have a practice plan that efficiently uses the time available and teaches the players important skills and strategies for the game of soccer.
 - For games I will have a game plan that will utilize the talents of all my players to the utmost while insuring that each player feels needed and respected.



- **I will be an encourager, not a discourager.**
- **I will follow all the Laws of the Game and will abide by all the administrative procedures of my club, local association, South Texas Youth Soccer Association, United States Youth Soccer, and the United States Soccer Federation.**
- **I will do my best to make soccer a fun game for all to enjoy.**



Zero Tolerance Policy

It's For the Players

Sadly, abuse of referees by a very few people out of thousands, can create disruption far out of proportion to their number. The United States Soccer Federation, STYSA, KYSA and KYSC in particular, take primarily an educational approach to this problem through printed literature, public presentations and personal contacts. These educational efforts are backed up by official policies and appropriate disciplinary measures against offenders, including suspension or censure from the program. In addition, referees and coaches receive training in "sideline control" so as to minimize the impact of such negative disruptive conduct on players, the game, other adults and themselves.

The Board of Directors reaffirms its policy of "**Zero Tolerance**" with regard to the verbal or physical abuse of referees by coaches, spectators, and/or players. In particular, verbal vulgarities, ethnic comments, and sexual innuendo and/or harassment are viewed as extremely offensive; physical aggression of any kind will involve county and/or city law enforcement for prosecution. The Board will enforce this policy in accordance with the appropriate KYSA and STYSA procedures.

Definitions of Violations of the 'Zero Tolerance' Policy *(From the STYSA Administrative Handbook)*

4.2 DEFINITION

4.2.2. Assault is an intentional act of physical violence. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts: hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, choking, spitting at or on; grabbing or bodily running into; the act of kicking or throwing any object at another that could inflict injury; damaging a uniform or personal property; i.e., car, equipment (cards, whistle, notebook, etc.) or knocking equipment or other objects out of the hand.

4.2.3. Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to an individual. It also includes verbal abuse which is threatening, cursing, or demeaning a person or any member of his or her family.



4.2.4. Automatic Suspension shall mean that a coach, assistant coach, player, or spectator shall not participate in any STYSA, USYSA, or USSF sanctioned activity, including but not limited to games, practices, practice games, tournament play, or friendly games. The Member Association shall confiscate all player ID cards of the team members or player(s) suspended, until such person petitions the STYSA Appeals Committee for a hearing and the committee reinstates. An automatic suspension may only be imposed for allegations of referee assault as per USSF Policy 531-9 or the acquisition of excessive penalty points as per STYSA Rule 4.9.

In addition, **KYSC Policy** provides that ***all referee decisions relating to the play of a match are final***. Protests will only be considered for other matters, such as player eligibility, playing time or the misapplication of the rules. The following rules have been implemented by KYSC with regard to the conduct of coaches and spectators:

Parent-Guardian-Spectator Conduct Policy

Section I - Purpose of the Policy

- 1) The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse or negative criticism of referees, volunteer coaches, spectators and KYSC officials is unacceptable, and to adopt basic standard sanctions for improper conduct.
- 2) Youth development is the focus of the Katy Youth Soccer Club. This includes development of all persons associated with the Club whether they are players, coaches or referees. Katy Youth Soccer Club will provide a family-focused, wholesome environment for all players.
- 3) This policy is not intended to imply that KYSC officials are always "right" and that the adult spectator or coach is always "wrong". Just as youth players will make mistakes during play; coaches, KYSC officials and referees will make mistakes in coaching and officiating. This is particularly true in the younger divisions where they are learning their roles. While it is always KYSC's goal to match volunteer experience to the level of competition, it may occur that a coach or referee is "in over their head" because of a particularly challenging game, an assignment beyond their experience level or beyond their comfort level.

Section II - Policy on Youth Volunteer Abuse

- 1) Negative comments or complaints about the referee and his or her handling of the match are not allowed under any circumstances. This is a "zero-tolerance" policy.
 - a) Katy Youth Soccer Club reserves the right to administer disciplinary sanctions against any coach or spectator engaging in abuse of a referee, coach or player.
 - b) Such sanctions may include up to the permanent expulsion from future games, functions or events.



- c) Such sanctions do not limit, prevent, or replace any voluntary or required report or referral of improper conduct, by an adult toward any referee, KYSC volunteer, player or coach, to law enforcement or a child protection agency.
- 2) Appropriate avenues exist for coaches or spectators to privately share concerns about the quality of Katy youth soccer and its officials. These include the KYSC vice-presidents of each function and the respective age commissioners.
 - a) Adult referees, coaches or KYSC Board Members present at the game shall, if necessary, intervene by taking immediate and appropriate action should any coach, player, spectator, or other adult be found criticizing or abusing a match Official, volunteer coach or any players. This may include directing the offender to leave the site, suspending or terminating the game, or contacting local law enforcement.
 - 3) At any time directly related to the duties of all game officials, a coach or spectator may only communicate in a positive manner and may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with the performance of a referee.
 - a) A coach or spectator may not critique the performance of a referee other than to thank them for their service.
 - b) The coach, while responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with his/her team follows these guidelines, will be given the opportunity to remedy such infractions as soon as they are noted by the referee and brought to the attention of the coach.
 - 4) Any KYSC volunteer or representative observing behavior that violates these guidelines shall report the incident to the KYSC Board within 24 hours of the incident so that an appropriate review can take place.
 - a) Any coach, referee, or KYSC Board Member, upon receipt of a report of an incident involving actual or suspected abuse or criticism of a volunteer, as described in Section II above and Section III below shall immediately report the incident to the KYSC Vice President-Coaches or his designee.
 - b) The KYSC Vice President-Coaches or his designee and select members of the KYSC Board shall review the facts and circumstances of the reported incident and administer appropriate disciplinary sanctions, as described in Section III.
 - c) Coaches will be notified of violations and sanctions by the VP-Coaches or his/her designee.

Section III – Disciplinary Sanctions



The following sanctions shall be applied for these types of abusive behavior or actions, as described here and elsewhere in this policy.

- 1) Criticism or minor verbal abuse of a referee, coach or player (not including offensive, insulting, or foul language):
 - a) First offense: Notice of Violation. Further or more serious discipline may be added based on a review of each case.
 - b) Subsequent offenses: One game suspension to be served in no less than one game week. Additional disciplinary action may be taken based on a review of each case.
- 2) Serious verbal abuse of a volunteer (e.g. using offensive, insulting, or foul language), or repeated offense of less serious abuse:
 - a) Two game suspension to be served in no less than two game weeks; up to suspension for remainder of the season. Additional disciplinary action may be taken based on a review of each case.
- 3) Entering the field of play without the explicit consent of the referee is a threshold that brings a heightened sense of severity and level of discipline.
 - a) Mandatory one game suspension up to permanent expulsion from further participation in or attendance at Katy Youth Soccer Club games functions or events.
- 4) Any physical altercation will result in an automatic suspension as per USSF Policy 531-9. Such sanctions do not limit, prevent, or replace any voluntary or required report or referral of improper conduct, by an adult toward any referee, KYSC volunteer, player or coach, to law enforcement or a child protection agency.

Section IV - Supplementary Conditions

- 1) A suspended person cannot, during their suspension, attend any games. This includes events associated with additional KYSC teams being coached by the individual.
- 2) These sanctions apply only to the discipline of spectators, parents and coaches. Sanctions necessary for any players on one of the teams involved that exhibit inappropriate behavior will be dealt with using the administrative procedures for that particular age group as stated in FIFA Laws of the Game.



3) Modification of sanctions may, but will not be required to, be made by the KYSC Board Members for sanctioned individuals who demonstrate immediate and sincere remorse, including apologies agreed to by those affected.

Monitoring and Enforcement – typically, the referee officiating the match will enforce this policy. In addition, **KYSC Board Members, KYSA Officers, and off-duty KYSC Referees** will occasionally monitor matches, and **have the authority to require compliance** with this policy.



What's all that noise from the sideline?

Dr. Alan Goldberg is a nationally known expert in the field of applied sports psychology and the former sports psychology consultant for all of the teams at the University of Connecticut. He specializes in helping athletes overcome performance fears, blocks and slumps and perform to their potential.

Dr. Goldberg is a regular and popular presenter at coaches' clinics, colleges and high schools across the country as well as internationally. He is a frequent speaker at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and has presented regularly at national coaches' clinics including the National Soccer Coaches Association, US Youth Soccer, and American Youth Soccer. Dr. Goldberg is the author of 10 audiotape mental toughness training programs for athletes and 6 books on sports psychology and peak performance. He also writes on the subject of peak performance for a number of national publications including The NSCAA Soccer Journal and Soccer Junior. For the latest in mental toughness training products and services visit his site - www.competitivedge.com.

“What's all that noise from the sidelines?”

*(Loud adult noise from the sidelines) “Shoot the ball! Kick it! Come on Billy; for God's sake shoot it! (The 10-year-old who's related to the voice nervously tries to pass the ball to his nearest teammate but instead, it awkwardly dribbles off the side of his foot out of bounds. The boy's father is now yelling.) “Billy what the heck's wrong with you, son? Are you that stupid? I said shoot it! Do it like I showed you! Now don't be lazy! Move your butt and go get that ball back! (The boy looks miserable and quickly glances over to the sidelines at his father before he hangs his head and runs after the ball. A few minutes later an opposing player cleanly tackles Billy and takes the ball away from him. The referee's whistle is silent. The father explodes at the official.) “Are you blind or what? Where's the foul? How can you not call anything there? That's a yellow card, ref! How can you not see that? (The referee trots over to the father and tells him to calm down. The father doesn't back down). “I wouldn't be complaining if you just did your job!” (The referee glares at the man and warns him to keep his mouth shut otherwise he will have him removed from the game. Suddenly it has become very quiet on the field as the game comes to an abrupt halt. Billy and a number of players from both teams stop and watch the altercation. Billy seems to be cringing in embarrassment, looking for a way to disappear.... Just another **FUN** day on the soccer field!)”*



In theory, soccer is supposed to be an enjoyable “game” organized *for* and played *by* kids. Its’ purpose is to teach game skills, tactics and a love for physical activity. In addition, and when in the hands of *appropriate* adults, soccer provides its’ young participants with a whole host of valuable life learning experiences like hard work as a vehicle for success, teamwork, good sportsmanship, healthy competition, mastering adversity in the pursuit of a goal and utilizing failure constructively, all of which are geared towards building self-confidence and leaving the child feeling better about himself. **In theory!**

Unfortunately, as the above scenario all too commonly illustrates, the reality of today’s youth soccer experience is vastly different. Misguided adults, both parents and coaches are inadvertently and selfishly distracting the child-athlete from what’s really important and, in the process, killing his/her joy for the sport. Parents like Billy’s, who get too caught up in the game’s outcome, who pressure their kids to perform, who are overly critical and demeaning when they make mistakes, insure that their child will consistently play well below their potential, seriously jeopardize the parent-child relationship and increase the likelihood that their child will soon become a sports drop-out statistic.

There’s no question that the vast majority of parents mean well and want their children to be happy and successful. Towards this end, they are willing to sacrifice their time, energy and financial resources taxiing their kids to and from practices, getting them additional training, volunteering for team and club functions and spending countless hours on the sidelines at tournaments and games. Unfortunately, far too many parents do not know exactly what they should and shouldn’t be doing to be the most helpful. Despite having positive intentions and their child’s best interests at heart, these parents say and do things before, during and after games that distract the child from focusing on the actual game, increase his/her anxiety level and, as a consequence, sabotage his/her overall level of play.

So just how important is it for you as a parent that your child has a positive, enriching experience in this sport? Do you really want your son or daughter to perform to his/her potential? Are you truly interested in seeing smiles out there during games instead of tears and unhappiness? If your answer to these questions is a resounding “YES!” then there are very specific things that you can do as a parent to make these things happen. *Your* role in relation to your child’s soccer is absolutely critical in determining the quality of *their* experience. If you adopt the appropriate behaviors and play the right role, then you will ensure that soccer brings a smile to your child’s face and joy to his heart. If you play the wrong role and act like Billy’s dad, then you’ll end up making a significant contribution to your child’s unhappiness and heartache.



So what's the right role? First and foremost, your main “job” is to be your child's best fan. You need to be *unconditionally* supportive. If your child is having a bad game, then he/she needs your love and support far more than when they are playing out of their mind. After a tough loss or a poor outing he/she needs you to be positive, compassionate and loving. Providing feedback on what they did wrong or expressing your disappointment in their play is NOT what they need and will only serve to make a painful situation much worse.

Along these lines, love and support does NOT mean that you coach from the sidelines. In fact, the **VERY WORST THING** that you as a parent can do is to “coach” from the sidelines. What's coaching? Offering “helpful” advice and strategy before and during the game, telling your child what to do and where to go, criticizing their play and getting angry with them when they make mistakes are all examples of off-limit, exceedingly destructive parental behaviors. After game critiquing is another example of VERY destructive parental coaching behavior. Understand that you are **NOT** helping your child when you coach. You will **NOT** get them to play better. You are **NOT** motivating them, even if you know the game and that's your intention! On the contrary! Coaching and critiquing from the sidelines will distract your child from the flow of the game, make him more nervous, kill his enjoyment and, as a consequence, *insure* that he will consistently play badly. In addition, keep in mind that your “helpful” sideline comments are most often experienced by your child as an embarrassment! Coaching behaviors are only appropriate from the coaches, **NOT** the parents.

Instead, parents should smile from the sidelines, cheer for good execution regardless of which side it comes from, and encourage fair play and good sportsmanship. This means that you as a parent need to *model* appropriate, mature behaviors during the game. Yelling at your child, his teammates or the opponents is NOT mature, appropriate behavior. Also, loudly critiquing the officiating is NOT mature or appropriate. It is NOT your job to critique the referees. Regardless of how well you may know this game, your calls are not better than the referees'. Excuse me, but you are just a tad bit biased in this situation! Loudly complaining to the ref every time he makes a “bad call” is not only an embarrassment to your child, but it's quite selfish on your part. It takes the focus of the game off of the kids where it belongs and puts it on YOU. Remember, soccer is about the kids, NOT the adults.

Along these same lines it is NOT appropriate for you to spend your sideline time grumbling to other parents about your team's coaches and the playing or tactical decisions that they make. If you have a problem with the coaches then deal with them at an appropriate time and place, NOT just before, during or right after a game. Most coaches are volunteers, are



grossly underpaid for their time and are doing the best job that they know how. What they need from you is your support and help, NOT your disdain and criticism.

Finally, try to act on the sidelines in a way that would make your son or daughter proud to have you as a parent. Remember, your child is not the only one that's performing during the game. You are also a performer and the quality of *their* experience is in *your* hands. Conduct yourself in such a way that you clearly communicate to your child and those around you that this is just a game *for* children, played *by* children. That is, you need to keep the proper perspective at all times. If there are other parents around you who are unable to maintain this kind of perspective, notify the team's coach or league officials. It's not your job to get in the face of another parent for misbehaving. Let the coach or parent board educate them at the next parents' meeting.

Remember, soccer is a wonderful vehicle to help your children learn valuable life lessons. Do your part to insure that the lessons that they learn are constructive and positive.

Appendix

Parent Meeting Sample Outline

Consider the following tips in conducting your own parents' meeting:

- Additional volunteers will be needed at various times during the season. Coach will soon recruit for Picture Day helpers.
- Rosters have been distributed and include the schedule for game refreshments. Please advise as to address or phone corrections.
- Practice start time, duration, and location are on the roster. Parents should not leave their children at the practice field unless a coach is present, nor should they expect the coaches to hang around after practice.
- The *Albion Hurricanes F.C. Academy* youth development programs are excellent additional training opportunity for the players, with skills development provided by licensed professional trainers.
- Players should arrive 45 minutes (perhaps 20 for 6U and younger, 30 for 7U – 9U, 45 for 10U and older) before game time. Always call if you can't make a practice or a game so that I can adjust my plans.



- Every player must bring the correct size ball to every practice. Please write your name and phone number on your ball with a permanent marker.
- Play with the kids at home. Good soccer players are those who have spent the most time with a ball. Encourage any activity that will increase their flexibility or endurance. Some of our children may have trouble going full speed for an entire game.
- **Shin guards are required;** a player may not participate at practice or play in a game without them. Soccer shoes should be worn (not required for younger divisions) at this level of play. Unfortunately, hard casts or braces of any kind are reason enough to not allow your child to participate in games or practices per Club rules.
- General cheering is welcome, but parents are asked to refrain from shouting instructions at their children. Players have enough to concentrate on, and should be getting their direction from the coaches. None of us should ever make any negative remarks toward any child, coach, or referee.
- “Coaching” will be done at the weekly practice session; on Saturdays, the kids play a game and we watch. Particularly as the players get older, I will provide less direction during games, other than helping them understand their position, making substitutions and helping them review their performance during the half time break. In the older divisions coaches are obliged to stay within ten yards of midfield. Spectators may spread out along the touch line, but no one may stand behind the goal line.
- At halftime, I may keep the team out on the field in a group, team and coaches only please.
- Kids can drink all the water they want, and should bring jugs or bottles to practices and games. Wet towels are great for cooling players on hot days. Do not feed players a heavy breakfast or lunch before a game. A pre-game meal should be eaten about two or three hours before the game, but for early morning games a light breakfast of cereal and fruit and juice is good. Easy on the sugar.
- Juices are much better than any type of soda for the post game refreshment. Fruit at halftime is traditional.
- Kids need sleep before an early Saturday game – don’t let them stay up late on Friday.
- Wash uniforms carefully, uniforms should not be worn to practice.



- Kids with glasses? ... not a problem, but straps might be a good idea.
- Somebody's child (probably several) will get to play goalkeeper this year. Goals will be scored on us, but goals are scored on a team, not just the keeper. We will work with several players to develop keeper skills. It will be difficult to spend sufficient time with the keepers. Those players who want to play in the goal will be expected to perform some specific exercises at home, and most of these drills will require an adult's assistance. Goalkeepers may want gloves, and they may wear sweat pants.
- Sponsorship of the team? If anyone's business, or any individual, would like to sponsor our team, please see me or the Team Representative. A sponsorship is \$200, and this money improves the financial health of KYSC. As you are aware, KYSC has explicitly chosen to have low registration fees aimed at attracting as many players as possible.



KATY YOUTH SOCCER CLUB



Team Sponsor Form

Tax ID# 20-3263502

TEAM COACH: _____

TEAM COLORS: _____

Please circle **Division:** Boys Girls Coed

Please circle **Age Group:** 6U 7U 8U 9U 10U 11U 12U 13U
 14U 15U 16U 17U 18U 19U

SPONSOR NAME: _____

(As it should read on back of jersey)

SPONSOR NAME: _____

(As it should read on KYSC website)

CONTACT/Phone #: _____ / _____

Name on check and check #: _____

ALL CHECKS should be made payable to KYSC for \$200.

Fill out this form, attach check, and deliver with **CLEAN**** uniforms to:

BRAMMER’S ATHLETIC WEARHOUSE
5017 East Fifth Street in Katy

Phone: 281-391-1441: www.brammers.net

Uniforms need to be dropped off no later than noon on Tuesday to get them back by Friday.

Questions about sponsors?

Contact KYSC Treasurer at: treasurer@katyyouthsoccer.com

****uniforms must be clean in order for the screening to adhere properly. If you are collecting uniforms after a game, please wash the uniforms prior to delivering to Brammer’s.**



Medical Release Form (download from STYSA website)



MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

As the parent/guardian of _____, I request that in my absence the above player be admitted to any hospital or medical facility for diagnosis and treatment. I request and authorize physicians, dentists, and staff, duly licensed as Doctors of Medicine or Doctors of Dentistry or other such licensed technicians or nurses, to perform any diagnostic procedures, treatment procedures, operative procedures and x-ray treatment of the above minor. I have not been given a guarantee as to the results of examination or treatment. I authorize the hospital or medical facility to dispose of any specimen or tissue taken from the above-named player.

Birth Date of Player ___/___/___ Date of last Tetanus Booster ___/___/___

Known allergies of this player, including any allergies to medicine _____

Any other medical problems which should be noted _____

Family Physician _____ Phone # _____

Insurance Carrier _____ Policy Number _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ FAX _____

Person responsible for charges (if different than above) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ FAX _____

Person to notify if parent/guardian is unavailable _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ FAX _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Revised: 07/2005 STYSA, 15209 Highway 290 East, Manor, TX 78653 512/272-4553



6U Supplement

Small Sided Games – The Purpose of The 3 v 3 Format

In August 2003, US Youth Soccer's State Associations, including Katy Youth Soccer Association, approved the Policy on Players and Playing Rules that require 6U games to be played with ***three players on each team***.

Following are just a few of the reasons this will improve the enjoyment and development of our young players:

- Player development (and enjoyment!) has been systematically proven to be directly related to the number of “touches”. Smaller team rosters mean less sharing, and more opportunity for “touches”.
- A 5-year-old relates to and co-operates with one or two friends (accepted educational psychology).
- One ball among 6 players guarantees the opportunity for all players to kick, dribble and score!
- Three makes a triangle – the basic tactical unit of soccer.
- The 3-a-side game has always been played naturally by youngsters around the world. Many of the worlds' greatest players developed in this “street soccer” type environment. In the United States, “street soccer” is not as common, and formal soccer organizations are compensating by introducing small-sided games which simulate the fun “street soccer” environment.

3 v 3 - Rules, Tips and Guidelines

All KYSC games will be played according to the international (FIFA) Laws of the Game currently in effect, except as amended by the following US Youth Soccer guidelines specifically for 6U:

Field / Ball / Goals

- Small rectangular fields
- No penalty area
- The Center Circle has a 3-yard radius
- A size 3 ball is used
- Goals are small freestanding “hockey sized” goals



Players / Equipment

- No Goal Keeper.
- EVERYONE plays a minimum of 50% of the game. Substitutions are allowed any time the ball is out of play.
- Shin guards are MANDATORY.
- Personal adornments such as earrings, bracelets, hard hair accessories, watches, etc. are NOT permitted.
- Hard casts and hard braces or supports are NOT permitted.
- Each player must wear their team uniform, including jersey, shorts, and socks.
- Shoes can be tennis shoes or soft-cleat soccer shoes.

Start of Play

Before the game, decide who will kick off to begin the game, and then change the kick off team at the beginning of each quarter. Kick-off is intended to ensure possession and must go forward. The objective is to kick to a teammate, not to kick to the other team.

All players must be in their own half of the field with one team kicking off. Opponents must be outside the center circle (approx. 3 yards from the center mark) at the kick-off.

Ball In and Out of Play

When the WHOLE of the ball goes over the WHOLE of a boundary line, the ball is out of play. Putting the ball back in play will be discussed later.

Remember – the fun of the game is the movement of the ball. The fun stops when the game stops. Try to keep the ball moving and not be too eager to call the ball out of play.

Fouls and Misconduct

Fouls can and will occur even at this level. All fouls result in an **indirect kick** awarded to the opposing team, with opponents at least 3 yards away.



All Free Kicks will be indirect. Indirect kicks (meaning the ball must be touched by two or more players, regardless of team, before crossing the goal line between the goal posts to be awarded a goal) are awarded for such infractions as the following:

- Kicking, tripping, pushing, striking, or holding an opponent.
- Deliberately touching the ball with one's hands
- Penalty Kicks are not used in U5

Restarts

- **Throw-ins** are replaced by a **Kick-in**. When the ball goes completely over one of the longer boundary lines last touched by a player on Team "A", a player on Team "B" kicks the ball back in to play. Opponents should stay 3 yards away from the ball until it is kicked.
- **Goal Kicks** – If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. The kick should be taken within 2-3 yards of the goal, and opposing players should be 5-6 yards away.
- **Corner Kick** – If the team defending against a goal being scored, kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a corner kick.

Game Length / Quarter and Half Time Breaks

- The game is divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.
- There should be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two, and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.
- The half time break should be five (5) minutes.
- The Home Team provides a time keeper.

The Dual Field Method

Short-sided games are achieved by splitting each team into two "squads", with the same number of players on each squad. On game day, both squads will play simultaneous games on adjacent fields. Here are some tips for making this method work.

- **Recruit an Assistant Coach!** On game day, he/she can guide the players on one field, while you guide the players on the other. In selecting your assistant, keep in mind that prior knowledge of soccer is not nearly as critical as a positive, supportive demeanor.



- Prior to the game, decide how you'll split your team into the dual "squads", so that both are reasonably balanced.
- Consider switching with your assistant for the second half, so that both of you have an opportunity to interact with the whole team.
- Feel free to make adjustments at half time (switching players between squads) if necessary to help with lopsided scoring.
- Coaches on the Field - One coach from each team will be on the field with each squad, for player support and coaching purposes only.

Short-sided games, and the accompanying Law Modifications, are intended to encourage all players to get "more touches on the ball". Touching the ball is the central purpose of the game from a training perspective. The "score of the game" isn't recorded and should not be actively considered.

Game Officials

NO Referee is used. The Coaches and assistant coaches serve the role of Referee. Their job is to keep the playing environment **FUN, SAFE** and focused on the children.

Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of The Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players **WHY!** This is their first experience with soccer, too, and the best time to educate all on the Laws of the Game.

Don't forget to wear your KidSafe pass!!



7U/8U Supplement

Small Sided Games: The Purpose of the 5 v 5 Format

In August 2003, US Youth Soccer's State Associations, including Katy Youth Soccer Association, approved changes to the Policy on Players and Playing Rules that require younger players play in a small sided format.

Following are a few of the reasons this will improve the enjoyment and development of our young players:

- Helps players develop basic motor skills such as walking, running and changing direction. The smaller space also provides more interaction with ball, team mate and opponents.
- Player development (and enjoyment!) has been systematically proven to be directly related to the number of "touches" of the ball. Smaller team rosters mean less sharing, and more opportunity for "touches".
- Younger players relate to and co-operate with fewer friends at a given time (accepted educational psychology).
- One ball among fewer players guarantees the opportunity for all players to kick, dribble – and score!
- The smaller sided games have always been played naturally by youngsters around the world. Many of the worlds' greatest players developed in this "street soccer" type environment. In the United States, "street soccer" is not as common, and formal soccer organizations are compensating by introducing small-sided games which simulate the fun "street soccer" environment.

Rules, Tips and Guidelines

All KYSC games will be played according to the international (FIFA) Laws of the Game currently in effect, except as amended by the following US Youth Soccer guidelines developed specifically for U6.



Player/Spectator Seating

Coaches and their players will occupy one side of the field and spectators will occupy the opposite side. Spectators of the team must remain on the same end as their team, but on the opposite side. There is no sitting behind the goals.

All persons are required to stay a minimum of (1) yard behind the touch line. Coaches, team officials and players may only occupy the area from the penalty area to the mid-line on the same side of the mid-line as their team occupies.

Coaching is limited to two (2) coaches. This includes one head coach in the field of play and one assistant coach on the sidelines. Any adult on the player's sideline must be affiliated with the team and registered with the Club. All adults on the player's sideline must be in compliance with the STYSA KidSafe Policy.

Field / Ball / Goals

- Small rectangular fields
- A goal area 3 yards out from each goal post, and 3 yards out from the goal.
- The Center Circle has a 4-yard radius
- A size 3 ball is used
- Goals are appropriately sized for the no-goalskeeper format.

Players / Equipment

- No goalies.
- EVERYONE plays a minimum of 50% of the game. Substitutions are allowed for BOTH teams at any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.
- Shin guards are MANDATORY.
- Personal adornments such as earrings, bracelets, hard hair accessories, watches, etc. are NOT permitted.
- Hard casts and hard braces or supports are NOT permitted.
- Each player must wear their team uniform, including jersey, shorts, and socks.
- Shoes can be tennis shoes or soft-cleat soccer shoes.



Start of Play

Before the game decide who will kick off to begin the game by coin toss, then change the kick off team at the beginning the second half. Kick-off is intended to ensure possession and must go forward. The objective is to kick to a teammate, not to kick to the other team.

All players must be in their own half of the field with one team kicking off. Opponents must be outside the center circle (approx. 4 yards from the center mark) at the kick-off.

Ball In and Out of Play

When the WHOLE of the ball goes over the WHOLE of a boundary line, the ball is out of play. Putting the ball back in play will be discussed later.

Remember, the fun of the game is the movement of the ball. The fun stops when the game stops, so try to keep the ball moving and not be too eager to call the ball out of play.

Fouls and Misconduct

Fouls can and will occur at this level. ***Heading the ball is a foul resulting in an indirect free kick.*** All fouls result in an **indirect kick** awarded to the opposing team, with opponents at least 4 yards away.

Slide tackles are not allowed at this age and will be considered a foul.

All Free Kicks will be indirect. Indirect kicks (meaning the ball must be touched by two or more players, regardless of team, before crossing the goal line between the goal posts to be awarded a goal) are awarded for such infractions as the following:

- Kicking, tripping, pushing, striking, or holding an opponent.
- Deliberately touching the ball with one's hands.
- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.
- Plays in a dangerous manner.
- Impedes the progress of an opponent.

Soccer is a contact sport and each action is dealt with at the time it occurs. **The game official will explain the foul in simple terms**, restart, and let the game continue.



Restarts

- **Throw-ins** – some 7U/8U players do not yet have the eye-hand coordination to execute a throw-in to the letter of the law. One ‘do-over’ per thrower should be the normal response if the throw-in is incorrect. The coaches officiating the match should explain to the child how to execute the throw-in correctly.
- **Goal Kicks** – If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. The kick should be taken within 2-3 yards of the goal, and opposing players should be 4 yards away.
- **Corner Kicks** – If the team defending against a goal being scored kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a corner kick with the opposing team 4 yards away. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.

Game Length / Quarter and Half Time Breaks

- The game is divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters. The quarter break makes it easy for the coach to give each player equal time and allows a bit of rest between quarters.
- There should be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.
- The half time break should be five (5) minutes.

Player Add Rule due to Excessive Scoring

At the 7U/8U level, if at any time the goal differential (GD) exceeds 6 goals, the team with fewer goals may add an additional player to the field of play. This may be repeated each subsequent increase in the goal differential by 2 goals up to a maximum of 4 player adds. Added players **MUST** be withdrawn if the goal differential decreases to each set point.

Example: Team A: 0 pts; Team B: 6 pts – no action. (GD=6)

Team A: 0 pts; Team B: 7 pts – Team A may add a player. (GD=7)

Team A: 0 pts; Team B: 9 pts – Team A may add a player. (GD=9)

Team A: 2 pts; Team B: 9 pts – Team A **MUST** remove a player. (GD=7)

Team A: 3 pts; Team B: 9 pts – Team A **MUST** remove a player. (GD=6)



Game Officials

Referees will NOT be provided by the league. The coaches serve the role of Referee. Their job is to keep the playing environment **FUN, SAFE** and focused on the children.

Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of the Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players **WHY!** This is their first experience with soccer, too, and the best time to educate all on the Laws of the Game. **Don't forget to wear your KidSafe pass!!**



Glossary

Use these terms to give direction during practice and to discuss certain plays in the game. Encourage your players to use the proper language. As you progress, you will become more conversant with the sport and will no doubt be able to expand the following list.

Terms applicable for most 6U players, and also for 7U and older:

Center Circle – A circle in the center of the field, 3 yards in radius for 6U, 10 yards in radius for full sized fields (center circles are between 3 and 10 yds in radius for reduced sized fields); at the kick off, the defensive team must be positioned outside this circle on their half of the field.

Goal Line – The lines marking the ends of the field. If the ball crosses this line, one of three things results: 1) if the ball is in the net, a goal is scored, 2) if the ball is last touched by an offensive player, a goal kick is taken by the defensive team, 3) if the ball is last touched by a defensive player, a corner kick is taken by the offensive team.

Goal Side – A defender's position in which they are between the ball and the defender's goal; if a defender is not goal side of the approaching attacker, the attacker has an open shot on the goal.

Halfway Line – The line at midfield is used to line up the teams for the kick off, and also indicates when a player may be in an offside position (a player cannot be offside on their side of the field, and there is no offside rule for 9U and younger).

Touch Line – The lines on each side of the field. If the ball goes out of play completely over the touch line, it is returned to play by a kick in for 6U, a throw in for all older ages. A player may cross the touch line to play a ball that has not yet completely crossed the line.

Terms applicable to 8U and older players:

Center the Ball – To pass the ball from a wide position into the penalty area, in hope of setting up a shot on goal.

Cross the Ball – To pass the ball across the face of the opponent's goal.



Far Post / Back Post – The goal post that is farthest from where the ball is being played.

Goal – The goal is a vertical rectangle 8 feet high and 8 yards wide, as defined by the two upright posts and the crossbar. A ball that completely crosses the goal line between the posts and below the crossbar is a goal, or point.

Goal Area – The small box 6 yards out from the goal line. Goal kicks are taken from within this box.

Mark – A defensive player marks an opposing player by staying close to the other player to stop them from getting the ball. This is done by staying on the goal side, i.e., between the opposing player and the goal being defended.

Move to Open Space – Move away from all other players to an open space so that you might receive a pass. The player without the ball creates the opportunity for a teammate to pass the ball.

Near Post / Front Post – The goal post that is nearer to where the ball is being played. The goalkeeper often places a defender at the near post for a corner kick.

Offside and Offside Position – Come to the Referee Instruction Course.

Overlap – To run past a player on their “outside” shoulder so that you might receive a pass in the open space. A halfback might overlap the wing (forward), and continue on the attack after receiving a pass.

Penalty Area – The penalty area is an area at each end of the field measuring 44 yards wide and 18 yards deep. It is centered on the goal, such that the distance from each goal post to outer edge of the penalty area is 18 yards. Goalkeepers may use their hands while within the penalty area. A penalty foul (direct free kick) committed within the penalty area allows the fouled team to attempt a penalty kick.

Screen – maintain possession and protect the ball by keeping the body between the ball and an opponent.

Settle the Ball – To receive and control a ball that is bouncing, and settle it to the ground in order to pass, dribble, or shoot. Various traps are used to settle the ball.

Show Yourself – If there is a defender between you and your teammate with the ball, you should move to one side or the other to show yourself, to let your teammate see you so that the ball can be cleanly passed to you. This is important to help your goalkeeper clear the ball from the goal area, and to give your fullback a target when a goal kick is being taken.



Square It or Square Ball – To play the ball to one side rather than up the field. A center halfback might square the ball to one of the outside halfbacks.

Switch – To take the ball that is played on one side of the field and switch it over to the other side. This is often done by goalkeepers, after they save a shot from one side. Other players will find themselves in a position to switch the ball as well. The idea is to move the ball away from concentrated defenders.

Through Ball – To play the ball up the middle of the field for a fast offensive player who has a chance to beat the defense one-on-one. The start of a break away.

Time – When a coach or teammate tells the player with the ball “Time”, it means that the player does not have to make a quick play, but has time to settle the ball, and to look around for another teammate.



Coaching Requirements

MANDATORY for ALL Coaches and Assistant Coaches on Team:

- Register with KYSC (www.katyyouthsoccer.com/coaches)
- Register in GotSport (www.katyyouthsoccer.com/coaches)
- Complete STYSA KidSafe Adult Registration for background check ([GotSoccer - Our Software - Your Journey](#))
- Complete the CDC *Head's UP* concussion training ([GotSoccer - Our Software - Your Journey](#))
- Complete the *SafeSport Certification* training ([GotSoccer - Our Software - Your Journey](#))

Who should register as a Coach with KYSC?

All former Coaches and one who wants to coach their children must register with KYSC before they are assigned to a team. Please note that is not guaranteed all coaches who register will get assigned a team.

When do coaches need to register as a Coach with KYSC?

Coaches must register with KYSC before they are assigned to a team.

When do coaches must complete their background check?

Coaches must complete their background check before the 2nd game of the season. Coaches will not be assigned to their team in GotSport until their background check is completed.

When do coaches must complete their SafeSport and CDC Concussion?

Coaches must complete their background check before the 2nd game of the season. Coaches will not be assigned to their team in GotSport until their background check is completed.



What happens if a coach does not complete their background checks before the deadline?

Initial Reminder: If a coach has not completed the required training by the specified deadline, a formal reminder will be issued, clearly stating the importance of completing the training promptly. This reminder should include the deadline for compliance and information on how to access the training.

Escalation Process:

- **First Escalation:** If the training is still not completed after the initial reminder, the coach will receive a direct communication from the AC and VP of Coaches. This communication will emphasize the critical nature of the training and the potential consequences of non-compliance. (before the first game)
- **Second Escalation:** Should the coach fail to comply after the first escalation, the President will contact the coach and will be given a final opportunity to complete the training within a specified timeframe. (This occurs mid-week after the first escalation. The coach will be given a deadline to complete all required items by Friday, prior to the next game.)

Enforcement and Removal:

- If all escalations and warnings have been exhausted without compliance, the coach will be removed from their position until items are completed, or a replacement can be found. This action is necessary to protect the organization.
- The removal process will be documented thoroughly, ensuring that all steps were taken to provide the coach with ample opportunity to comply, signed off by the VP of Coaches and the President (we can create a form that the President and the VP of Coaches must sign to confirm that we have reviewed and verified that all policies, including the documentation of compliance requirements and escalation steps were followed.)

Monitoring: The VP of Coaches will implement regular monitoring to ensure all coaches remain compliant with training requirements. Any future instances of non-compliance will be handled swiftly following this established procedure.



What happens if a coach does not complete their SafeSport and CDC Concussion before the deadline?

Initial Reminder: If a coach has not completed the required training by the specified deadline, a formal reminder will be issued, clearly stating the importance of completing the training promptly. This reminder should include the deadline for compliance and information on how to access the training.

Escalation Process:

- **First Escalation:** If the training is still not completed after the initial reminder, the coach will receive a direct communication from the AC and VP of Coaches. This communication will emphasize the critical nature of the training and the potential consequences of non-compliance. (before the first game)
- **Second Escalation:** Should the coach fail to comply after the first escalation, the President will contact the coach and will be given a final opportunity to complete the training within a specified timeframe. (This occurs mid-week after the first escalation. The coach will be given a deadline to complete all required items by Friday, prior to the next game.)

Enforcement and Removal:

- If all escalations and warnings have been exhausted without compliance, the coach will be removed from their position until items are completed, or a replacement can be found. This action is necessary to protect the organization.
- The removal process will be documented thoroughly, ensuring that all steps were taken to provide the coach with ample opportunity to comply, signed off by the VP of Coaches and the President (we can create a form that the President and the VP of Coaches must sign to confirm that we have reviewed and verified that all policies, including the documentation of compliance requirements and escalation steps were followed.)

Monitoring: The VP of Coaches will implement regular monitoring to ensure all coaches remain compliant with training requirements. Any future instances of non-compliance will be handled swiftly following this established procedure.

PLEASE GET YOUR COACHING REQUIREMENTS DONE!

